(b) if so, what are the reasons for giving unfair treatment to such applicants in the State;

(c) the details of the applications made to Government in 1997-98 for allotment of gas for power generation in East Godavari, West Godavari and Krishna districts of the State; and

(d) the steps proposed to expeditiously clear such applications for small quantities of gas for power plants of less than 10 MW capacity?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No. of applications received during 1997-98 by GAIL/ONGC are as under:—

Name of Distt.	Name of Company	
	GAIL	ONGC
East Godawari	07	08
West Godawari	02	01
Krishna	03	08
TOTAL	12	17

(d) Allocation of Natural Gas to various applicants requiring gas for various purposes is finalised by the Gas Linkage Committee keeping in view the overall availability. Exploration efforts are continuously made with the objective of increasing the production and availability.

Recruitment in ONGC

1776. SHRI DRUPAD BORGOHAIN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that Oil and Natural Gas Corporation, Eastern Region, has not opened new recruitment for the last several years, whereas, in the meantime many vacancies occurred due to retirements etc.; and

(b) what are the reasons of closing such recruitment and by when these vacancies will be filled up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) and (b) ONGC Ltd. has been making recruitment in ERBC. During the last five years, it has recruited 188 executives and 404 non-executives. The creation and filling up of posts is a continuous process and the same is done keeping in view the requirement from time to time.

Introduction of Autogas as a green fuel

1777. SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR:
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any study has been made for determining the feasibility of introducing autogas as a green fuel alternative to petrol and diesel in the capital; if so, the details and the outcome thereof;

(b) whether the study has been conducted by a foreign agency, a consortium of Dutch companies; if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what follow-up action is proposed to be taken to promote the green fuel?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) to (c) A Pilot on the use of Propane in 3-wheelers with 2-stroke engine as alternate fuel to petrol has been undertaken by a private party as per the direction of Hon'ble Supreme Court. Gas Authority of India Limited (GAIL) has supplied propane to the private party for undertaking the pilot project. The Indian Institute of Petroleum (IIP), Dehradun has been engaged for type approval of the conversion kit for use of propane in 3 wheeler with 2-stroke engines.

Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) is available as green fuel in Delhi and also at Mumbai and Baroda. Action for amendment in Motor Vehicles Act, LPG Control Order and Explosive Rules is under way to enable use of LPG in automobiles.

LPG Distribution in Rural Areas

1778. SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned "LPG Distributorship for Rural areas on anvil" which appeared in the Business Times Bureau on 15th July, 1997;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any decision has been taken to undertake awareness programme in the use of innovative methods and efficient equipments for conservation of petroleum products; and

(d) if so, the reaction of the people to the proposal and other relevant details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. With a view to areas, while formulating the LPG Plan 1996—98, it was distributorships in the following areas also:

(i) Wherever feasible, all towns with a population of 5,000 and above, including villages within 15 Kms. Radius, to make a viable distributorship.

(ii) Wherever feasible, all villages with a population of 10,000 and above, including the villages within 15 Kms. Radius, to make a viable distributorship.

(iii) Wherever feasible, rural areas within 15 KMs radius of towns with a population of one lakh and above.

Accordingly, a total of 1702 distributorships have been included in the approved LPG Marketing Plan for 1996—98. Of these, 401 are for only rural areas only. 1285 for urban/rural areas and 16 for urban areas.

Above distributorships are being advertised currently inviting applications from eligible candidates and selections are to be made by the Dealer Selection Boards on the basis of interview of eligible candidates, who will be responsible to set up distributorships, within specified period.

(c) and (d) Oil Industry is conducting several programmes including oil conservation week every year to create awareness among the masses about oil conservation. Under this programme the following activities are conducted to bring awareness in the use of innovative methods and efficient equipments for conservation of petroleum products:

(a) Seminars in Schools/Colleges
(b) Seminars with consumer associations
(c) Painting/Debate/Essay Competitions in School/Colleges
(d) Wide Spread messages through TV/Radio
(e) Display of Banners/Hoardings
(f) Distributions of safety/conservation Literature/Leaflets, etc.
(g) Participation in Kisan Melas and setting up demonstration centres in rural areas.

Customers/public have appreciated the efforts of the industry in organising various conservation activities in order to promote/propagate awareness and need for conservation of petroleum products.

Supply of Bitumen to Gujarat

1779. SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM and NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the supply of bitumen to Gujarat is tied up with Koyali Refinery;

(b) whether the supply is as per their demand;